



Chairperson Vice-Chair

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, October 22, 2009

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, October 22, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at Police Headquarters, 1300 Beaubien, in Detroit, Michigan.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Ronald L. Griffin (**ABS**)
Mohamed Okdie (**ABS**)
Jerome L. Warfield, Sr.
Toney Stewart (**ABS**)
Adela Rivera

Lt. Marlon Wilson
Lt. Eric Jones
Sgt. Michael Dailey
P.O. Lucretia Wright
P.O. Sophia Nelms

Department Personnel Present

AC Lawrence Meyer
DC Herbert Moreland
DC James Tolbert
Cmdr. Brian Stair
Cmdr. Todd Bettison
Cmdr. Benjamin Lee
Insp. Stephen Carlin
Lt. Whitney Walton
Lt. Cynthia Williams
Sgt. Hilton Kincaid
P.O. Roland Clark

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director
Celia Banks-Washington, Attorney/Supervising Inv.
Arnold Sheard, Chief Investigator
Dalph Watson, Director of Police Personnel
Lt. Daniel Allen
Leslie J. Griffin, Community Affairs Coordinator
PO Kent Cooper

OTHERS PRESENT

Phyllis Hernandez
Edward Moore

Judge David Allen
Tom Stidham

RECORDERS

PO Terence Bell
Robert Brown

Lisa Little (Stenographer)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Comm. Rivera called the meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 3:05 p.m.

She introduced Judge David Allen of the 3rd Judicial Circuit Court.

OATH

Judge David Allen swore in Comm. Warfield to the Board of Police Commissioners.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda for October 22, 2009 was not presented given the lack of a quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

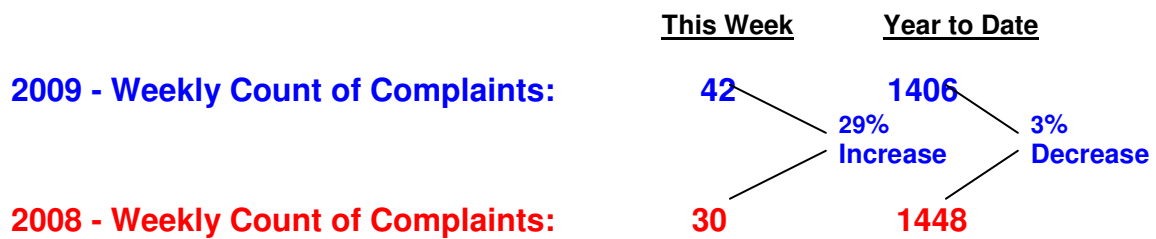
The Minutes for October 15, 2009 were not presented given the lack of a quorum.

4. BOPC OFFICER'S REPORT

1. CHAIRPERSON

2. SECRETARY'S REPORT

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED



- The Office of the Chief Investigator has a total of **1,135** active investigations, of which **896** of those are for 2009. A total of **1,533** investigations have been closed since January 1, 2009.

TOTAL WEEKLY ALLEGATIONS & COMMAND

Total	COMMAND	ALLEGATIONS									Total
CCR	W/E 10/22/09	Arrest	Demeanor	Force	Harassment	Entry	Procedure	Property	Search	Service	Allegations
3	CENTRAL		3				1				4
2	EASTERN		1	2							3
4	NORTHEASTERN		2	1			1	1			5
4	NORTHWESTERN		2		1		3				6
4	COMMUNICATIONS		2							2	4
14	UNKNOWN	1	6	3			9			1	20
2	8TH PRECINCT		2	1						1	4
5	10TH PRECINCT		4				3			1	8
4	12TH PRECINCT		3				2				5
42		1	25	7	1		19	1		5	59

5. PRESENTATION/REPORT-CHIEF OF POLICE

October 22, 2009

Volume 5, Issue 43

Detroit Police Department

Report to the Board of Police Commissioners



Special Points of Interest:

• Next meeting:

Thursday, October 29, 2009

@ 3:00 P.M.

Detroit Police Department
1300 Beaubien #328
Detroit, Michigan 48226

“Building a Safer Detroit Through Community Partnerships”

The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and businesses. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department. We appreciate and value the role our citizens have played in helping us to take the guns and drugs off the streets of the city of Detroit.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Domestic Violence

On October 15, 2009, officers of the Twelfth Precinct responded to the 16000 block of Log Cabin on an “Assault & Battery” run and a subject was arrested. As a result of the investigation conducted by members of Domestic Violence, the subject was charged with “Assault with a Dangerous Weapon (Felony Assault), Felony Firearm 2nd and Domestic Violence.”

Inside this issue:

Narcotics/Gang Enforcement 1

Domestic Violence 1

Central District 2

Tenth Precinct 2

Eastern District 2

Northeastern District 2

Twelfth Precinct 2

Engaging the Community

Citizens wishing to make a police report may do so at the District/Precinct stations in the city of Detroit. Citizens may also utilize the following District Mini/Sub-Stations to make reports.

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hours of Operation</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
	1300 Beaubien	24 Hours	596-5100
	20500 Conant	* 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.	892-5456
	7737 Kercheval	* 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.	628-2121
	19810 Grand River	* 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.	870-0649
	13530 Lesure	8 a.m. to 11 p.m.	596-5300
	2575 S. Schaefer	* 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.	297-9423
	20 Atwater	24 Hours	237-2850
	13206 E. Jefferson	* 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.	821-5851
	22101 Moross (St. John Hospital)	* 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.	343-7506
	14700 Mack	* 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.	852-4046

* Mini-Stations– Monday –Friday

October 22, 2009

Police / Community Intervention

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Tenth Precinct

On October 14, 2009, while on patrol in the area of Blaine and Woodrow Wilson, officers of the Tenth Precinct conducted a traffic investigation. Subsequent to their investigation, a subject was arrested and charged with "Fleeing & Eluding, Receiving & Concealing Stolen Property, and Unlawfully Driving Away of an Automobile."



Eastern District

On October 15, 2009, officers of the Eastern District responded to the area of Camden and Annsbury on a "Home Invasion." Due to the officers quick response and investigation, five subjects were arrested and charged with "Home Invasion 2nd" and two of the subjects were also charged with "Habitual 2nd and Habitual 3rd."



Northeastern District

On October 16, 2009, officers of the Northeastern District responded to the 19000 block of Gallagher on a "Robbery Armed." As a result of the officers response and investigation, a subject was arrested and charged with "Robbery Armed."

Twelfth Precinct

On October 17, 2009, while on patrol, officers of the Twelfth Precinct investigated several subjects for curfew violation. Subsequent to their investigation, a subject was arrested and charged with "Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Felon in Possession, Felony Firearm, and Habitual 4th." A weapon was recovered.



PRESENTATION DISCUSSION

SEE ATTACHMENT

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no standing committee reports.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. REQUEST TO ACCEPT AN AWARD FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION FOR THE "WE'RE HERE AND WE CARE PROGRAM (WHWCP)"**
- 2. REQUEST PERMISSION TO ACCEPT AN INCREASE IN THE SAFE COMMUNITIES: UNDERAGE DRINKING GRANT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010**

The Grants were not approved given the lack of a quorum.

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no new business.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, October 29, 2009
Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien, Rm. 328-A
Detroit, MI 48226**

10. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

SEE ATTACHMENT

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Adela Rivera, and I would like to call the meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners to order, it's 3:05 p.m. With me today is Commissioner Jerome Warfield. Also with me is AC Meyer, Dante' Goss, Executive Director, Celia Banks-Washington, Supervising Attorney, Arnold Sheard, Chief Investigator, Dalph Watson, Director of Personnel, Leslie Griffin, our Community Relations Coordinator, PO Kent Cooper, Robert Brown and PO Terrence Bell our recorders, and of course Lisa Little our court reporter. I'd like to thank Lisa. She's new to us. We just got her as a court reporter and she's just done a couple of weeks for us already and I just want to let everyone know that she's doing a fine job.

This will be a meeting of the committee of the whole today as we do not have a quorum. Our first order of business today, we're going to have the swearing in of Commissioner Jerome Warfield by Judge David Allen.

JUDGE ALLEN: Commissioner, before I do the swearing in of Commissioner Warfield, for the record, I would like to make a comment. I am so honored to be here today. This is

probably--Mr. Goss, this is probably my 6th, 7th, or 8th time of swearing in a newly appointed Commissioner. I have sworn in the last half dozen or so Commissioners and I'm just so glad and honored that you would ask me to be here. This has particular meaning for me as I come from a very proud family of this Detroit Police Department. My father served 42 years here and retired. Standing over my shoulder is my brother, Danny Allen, who has worked with the Police Commissioners and has served honorably, coming up on 25 years. So I'm honored to be here, and I think it's wonderful and I am always available to be here to swear in your Board. With that being said please raise your right hand.

**The swearing in of Jerome Warfield to the
Board of Police Commissioners took place as
follows:**

I, Jerome Warfield, do solemnly swear that I will uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, and I will uphold and defend the Constitution of the State of Michigan, and that I will uphold and defend the Charter of the great City of Detroit, and that I will faithfully execute the duties of the Board of Police Commissioners for the City of Detroit to the best of my ability.

JUDGE ALLEN: Congratulations.

COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Thank you, sir.

JUDGE ALLEN: Thank you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Did you want to get some pictures with your family and the judge?

(The newly appointed and sworn in Commissioner Jerome Warfield took pictures with his wife, daughter and Judge Allen.)

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Congratulations. Moving right along. The agenda for October 22nd, of this year, will not be presented for approval due to the lack of a quorum, and also the minutes of our last meeting, October 15th, will not be presented due to the lack of a quorum. At this point, I think we're ready for our Secretary's Report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GOSS: Commissioners, there are 42 new complaints that have been sent over from OCI from last week, year-to-date, 1,406. Same time period of last year had 30 new complaints, year-to-date 1,148. That's a three percent decrease from last year. The Office of the Chief Investigator has a total of 1,135 active investigations of which 896 are from 2009 for a total of 1,933 investigations that have been closed from January 1st, 2009. This concludes the Secretary's Report.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: There will be no old or new business presented due to the lack of a quorum. I believe we have a presentation by Internal Affairs. Chief, would you like to introduce the presentation.

CHIEF MEYER: Commander Stair from Internal Affairs, please.

COMMANDER STAIR: Good afternoon, Board and Assistant Chief Meyer. My name is Commander Brian Stair and I'm in charge of the Detroit Police Internal Affairs. I also oversee Force Investigations. Internal Affairs is the entity within the department that investigates criminality alleged against members of the police department as well as other city officials if the allegations contain issues dealing with trust. One example of that is let's say a member of the water department is alleged to have been involved in a domestic violence incident. That's not something that Internal Affairs handles. That's something that the Detroit Police Detectives would handle. If a member of the water department was actually stealing city equipment to further their private plumbing business, then that would be something that we will investigate.

Our mission is to ensure the public's trust and confidence in the Detroit Police Department by conducting thorough and impartial investigations into allegations of criminality and serious misconduct lodged against members of the department, as well as City of Detroit employees that abuse their position of trust.

Our Internal Affairs section, unlike some others around the country, accepts all complaints. We accept third

party complaints, anonymous complaints, however the information comes to us, we accept it and we figure out what to do with it. If it's something that falls under criminality, then we will launch an investigation. If it's something that falls under demeanor or something of that nature, then that allegation is something that falls under review by the Office of the Chief Investigator and we make sure that the information is forwarded to that office.

The first thing we do with the complaints once we receive them is we classify them and we try and figure out number one if it's a criminal or administrative matter. If it's a serious violation of an administrative rule, there's a possibility that we would hold on to it, especially if there could be a potential conflict or if there could be the appearance of impropriety if we were to send it back to the Commander. If it's criminal, then it's an internal affairs investigation.

The next thing I also have to do determine is whether or not immediate action needs to be taken. If it's something of a more serious nature, then it needs to be brought to the Chief's attention. If it's a very serious matter and the evidence is there to support the allegation, then we may move for immediate suspension. We will suspend, if we need to, on the spot and then we will come before the Board the following week

or the next time there's a quorum to ask for suspension without pay. We normally don't suspend members just with pay. Usually if it's something that warrants a suspension prior to the adjudication, then it's something that rises to the level where we will request a suspension with out pay.

Some things may require a change in duty status. For example, if a member is involved in an allegation, let's say it was alleged that they fired their weapon or pointed their weapon at somebody, then we may put them on administrative duty status and take their gun away until we've completed an investigation.

Psychological Evaluations. Depending on the allegation, we send some to the medical section for a psychological evaluation or a risk assessment if the person has a repeated pattern of the same type of misconduct.

We also have a Preliminary Investigation Squad. Often times we get information into Internal Affairs that's not really enough for us to open an Internal Affairs case. We may get information or an allegation that a couple of people not in a marked squad car with badges around their necks may have robbed a person. That's really not enough information for us to go on. So we send the Preliminary Investigation Squad out to the scene to gather video tape evidence, to do canvasses, basically to do what they can to gather enough information either to open

it as an Internal Affairs case or to close it as a preliminary investigation.

Most of our investigations are considered to be a public corruption type of investigation so each of our investigations do require a lot of consultation with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, and on federal cases we do work with the FBI and we consult with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Confidentiality is a major issue for us but it's not what a lot of people think. A lot of people think all Internal Affairs investigations are to be completely confidential. It's more of a need-to-know basis. We usually get information from the police officer and we have to interview other police officers and employees to determine whether or not the allegations are true so information does get out but we try to keep it as narrow as possible to protect the officers just in case the allegation is not sustained.

Impartiality; that is probably the most important piece of Internal Affairs, that's why we directly report to the Chief of Police. Not only is it a factor that we have to conduct these investigations impartially, but there also has to be the appearance of impartiality to the public so that they'll will trust the outcome of our investigations.

Case management is something that Lieutenant Walton is my right hand person. She manages all the cases. On a weekly

basis she'll go through all the cases with each investigator and find out where they are with each case and make sure they are doing the proper things to bring the case to closure.

The Consent Decree affects Internal Affairs the same way it does with the Office of the Chief Investigator with timelines and the notifications that we have to make in a certain amount of time to the complainant and the number of days that we have to close a case.

Now once we investigate a case, if the allegation is sustained, if we find there's been misconduct from this officer, then we will forward the case to the Disciplinary Administration and they will decide what charges have to be brought against the officer and they also oversee the adjudication of that charge. It's kind of like the police are the investigators and the disciplinary is kind of like the prosecutor's office where they are the ones that actually make the charge based on our investigation. Not sustained allegations are maintained at Internal Affairs and we use those to detect trends. Often times we will get an allegation that we're not able to sustain, but over time you may see the same person have maybe five, six, or seven of these same allegations but it's just different people or maybe different area, things like that. Once we detect a trend, there's some other things we can do.

Once we close a case, the complainant, the person who initially made the complaint, will be notified in writing of the findings. They get a letter explaining what the findings were and they're also advised if there are any questions that they can call us. By state law we have to notify the involved officer and the officer's command and also the Disciplinary Administration.

This chart shows a five-year comparison of the number of cases investigated by Internal Affairs year-to-date, and that's to the date of October 15th of each year. So you can see this year we actually had the fewest number of cases over the last five years. And with preliminary investigations, this is a similar graph. We are at 78 preliminary investigations this year, which is down about ten from last year and almost about twenty from the year before.

We go to each recruit training class and we talk to the student police officers before they graduate and we explain what we do and we explain a number of ways for them to stay out of trouble. We also teach a class at the Lieutenant and Sergeants Promotional Assessment Center and all in-service training sessions where we are requested in the Citizens Police Academy. Any questions?

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: That was a very good presentation. If you think you're nervous, when you show up

we're [police officers] nervous. Any questions from the citizens to our Commander?

COMMANDER STAIR: Thank you.

COMMISSIONERS: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: At this point, I'm supposed to announce our meeting for next week, which is next Thursday, October 29th at 3 o'clock at Police Headquarters in room 238. Now it is time for oral communications from the audience. Please stand up if you have any questions or comments. Oh, I'm sorry about my bad manners. Former Commissioner, Nathan Head is here and we're happy to have him with us today.

FORMER COMMISSIONER HEAD: Thank you, very much. I've been laboring under the misconception that Denise Hooks was still with us. So I've been e-mailing her some of the stuff that I brought down to the meeting today, but she's been gone for a year now.

Again, I'm Nathan Head, former Police Commissioner, and I'm here because one, my car was stolen. My car was stolen for the second time in the last month, but I'm here for more reasons than that. I'm here for the citizens that have put forth the same time and energy and have the same confusion that goes on with this time of criminality. There is a huge number of crimes taking place in this City involving car theft and the

theft of automobile equipment. Now, from what I understand from the police officers themselves and the insurance companies, Cadillacs are the target right now per se. And just to give you an example, I took my car in for the second time this month, and 12 Escalades were at Dalglish Cadillac awaiting repairs because of damage done to them during car theft. Five more were expected on the day that I took my car in that's how prevalent it is, and that's just Cadillacs, and that's just Dalglish.

My concern is there's got to be more cooperation from the police department, the automobile manufacturers, elected officials, the car dealerships and so on, and the insurance companies, to make sure that this kind of thing is curbed somehow. We have a tremendous problem here when people are working everyday and can't depend on their own transportation and having to spend between 14 and 20 thousand dollars on their vehicles depending on what's missing and what needs to be repaired to get their car back in shape again and then they need to pay to get a rental car in the meantime. I've had this car since July and it's been in the shop longer than I've had an opportunity to drive it. That's my own personal problem.

There's another issue here that needs to be addressed, and I've seen this and heard about it even when I was Police Commissioner and saw some of the citizens's complaints

come in, and that is the demeanor of the police department when people go in to make reports. The day my car was stolen I was helping a Reverend out who had their car stolen, and in the process of helping her out, my car was stolen. But she said in the course of putting in a complaint to the police department, she had all kinds of difficulty at the precinct. I think it was the 11th, the old 11th. A citizen who has problems like that coming before the police department trying to make a complaint should not have carelessness or arrogance or joking or just a delayed process in making those kinds of reports. That is absurd. Now, I'm also taking this before the Detroit Baptist Council and I'm also taking it before the City Council of Detroit because we have a real serious problem of this going on and we have a real serious problem going on in our community right now and this certainly disturbs our quality of life in this City. Thank you, very much.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Do you have any particular issue to your vehicle that you would like us to give special attention to?

FORMER COMMISSIONER HEAD: No, I'm insured all over the place to take care of my vehicle. I'm thinking about the people who are not or who are not properly insured or how many times that this is going to happen. With the cost of repairing

the vehicle and renting another car, their insurance is going to go through the roof.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Absolutely.

FORMER COMMISSIONER HEAD: That's the terrible feature of working people who are trying to make a living and trying to raise their families that live in the City of Detroit. That's not taking away from this city. We've got to do something because that's just one area of crime.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: And I agree.

ASSISTANT CHIEF MEYER: You are absolutely right. Sometimes you lose perspective when you say, well, the important things that we most address are in the majors of reduction of homicide, fatal and nonfatal shootings and things such as that. However, I've been there, and if you had your car stolen, that's a violation. It's a personal violation. It's an inconvenience, and it shouldn't be happening in the epidemic way that it's happening.

Now, let me say this, and I don't know if this is going to make you feel better or worse. The problem is that most of the funding that comes for auto theft prevention comes from an authority of the State Police called the ATPA, the Auto Theft Prevention Authority. Detroit gets a big chunk of it because they base it on the number of vehicles stolen in the area. What we've discovered, and the Chief is vigorously working on because

he has a seat on the Board, is trying to correct the performance measurements of the police agency reserving the dollars. It's like this. The ATPA rewards you in your allocation of grant dollars for the number of vehicles that you recover, okay. By the time the vehicle is recovered, it's worth nothing. It is worth nothing to you and the insurance companies are already paid off, everybody loses. What we're driving for, and DC Tolbert is in the forefront of pushing is preventative measures.

The sad thing is about car theft offenders is that with the lack of prison space, they fall into a category called the Public Act 511, and the Public Act 511 is, in essence, a prison system inmate reduction mechanism, and what it does is it puts state dollars into the counties to keep auto thieves and nonviolent offenders in the community on probation. Now, I'll tell you this, and you can pull records, you can steal a car and get caught four and five times and never go to jail, never. You'll get probation, you'll violate your probation and you'll steal another car and you'll still get probation because the prison system really can't accommodate you unless you're caught with a gun or a repeat offender for the fourth or fifth time, you may have a short confinement time. What the Chief is trying to do is work with correction officials, when he was a Sheriff, and with the courts to put these individuals on tether so we can monitor what they're doing.

The other sad fact is the increase of auto thefts--well actually auto theft is down believe it or not. Now, I know that doesn't ease your pain in any way, but it actually is down. But it's the insurance rates that continue to be going sky high because of the increase in auto theft. But the bright light at the end of the tunnel is we're trying to device new ways through the ATPA to get more dollars spent on auto theft prevention and on the monitoring of high risk auto theft offenders so they can't repeat this behavior. So I know that doesn't get your car back, sir, but we're not just sitting back. We're really looking at this as a systemic problem that involves the judicial system and the corrections system. It's not any lack on our part of arresting auto theft offenders. It's just trying to deal with other aspects of the criminal justice system that really don't work in conjunction with us. Did you want to add anything to that?

COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: One of the things that I also heard you say is that once you got to the precinct level you also felt somewhat victimized by the lack of customer care and customer service.

FORMER COMMISSIONER HEAD: It wasn't me. It was the Reverend.

COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Right, with the Reverend. So I think that is something else that we need to look into to make sure that the citizens are not victimized twice.

FORMER COMMISSIONER HEAD: It happens far too often.

COMMISSIONER WARFIELD: Absolutely. And that's something that I think we need to do as well to make sure our citizens are not victimized twice.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: We're working very diligently on our demeanor cases. We get several every week, and it's kind of hard, sometimes, to prove that the officer was discourteous unless there was a witness. I'm frustrated by it, too, because I read the complaints every week and the only way around it is to get our supervisors to talk to their employees, the officers on the street. They don't have to swear. There are other ways to make people feel bad without swearing. It's a problem.

DEPUTY CHIEF TOLBERT: Good afternoon, Board and Assistant Chief Meyer and former Commissioner. My name is Deputy Chief James Tolbert for the Detroit Police Department Criminal Investigation Bureau. Part of the Criminal Investigation Bureau is the Commercial Auto Theft Section, and they are, as the Assistant Chief said, the Commercial Auto Theft Section is a group of individuals strictly committed to the enforcement and

investigation of auto theft, and with me is Lieutenant Marlon Wilson. Not to give you another presentation, but I want Lieutenant Wilson to let you know what we are doing and some of the successes we've had. In fact, one of them being recently as far as with car theft.

LIEUTENANT WILSON: Lieutenant Marlon Wilson from the Commerical Auto Theft Section. I do understand your problem and I believe I've spoken with you before about it. The criminals have changed and adapted. They are no longer just stealing cars for joyriding. We're finding that the reason they are stealing the cars is for the tires and rims and navigational systems. We do understand that's a problem, so we've been working with different organizations such as HEAT to be practical to get this message out to the citizens to say that there are a few steps that can be taken to try to deter this, such as wheel locks. And when you do get the wheel locks, don't leave the wheel locks inside of the vehicle because when we do recover the vehicles, we're finding that they are smashing the windows and going straight for the glove box because that's primarily where the wheel locks are. So we're working with HEAT and other organizations to try to get that information out and to be proactive.

Also like AC Meyer was saying, we are being very aggressive with individuals and getting them arrested, but like

AC Meyer was saying, they are getting right back out. So we're starting to target places placing orders for these tires and we have a long-term investigation going on right now. My officers are actually out on the streets right now doing some undercover operations of two of the major players that we think are fencing and taking most of the tires. So we truly believe, and we're doing a partnership with the FBI and MSP, that once we close this out that, that we'll put a decrease in a lot of tires and rims being stolen. So those are a few things that we have done and that we are currently doing.

One success story is where a guy was going inside the Jefferson Plant and was just stealing cars. They had a section of the Jefferson plant that was closed and he would just come in and steal cars right off the paint shop. We were very aggressive and we were working tirelessly for nights until we got him arrested. So we got him off the streets and a lot of car thefts in that area have stopped.

We are being aggressive and we're talking with GM so see if their engineers can do a better job with the linking system because right now, even though the ignition has an anti-theft device, people are disengaging the linking system up under the car. So they are promising that they are going to fix that because most of the vehicles being stolen are GM, not only Escalades, but Yukons and Suburbans. So we believe that, that

will help also. So those are just a few of the things, and for the public if you do have things where you do think that there's some auto theft activity you can contact us at 313-596-2555 and that's Lieutenant Marlon Wilson.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Okay. I've just been informed from the Chief that DC Moreland can handle any demeanor complaints that you have.

DEPUTY CHIEF MORELAND: Deputy Chief Moreland Deputy, Control Operations Bureau. We understand the issue of demeanor is a problem within some of our commands, and to be quite frank, just like in other professions and businesses, we have people that are dishonest. To catch them at being improper with their tone, because it's not just what they say. Sometimes it can just be their tone, as you indicated, with being disrespectful. It's hard to prove it, as was indicated earlier by Commissioner Rivera.

I'm pushing to try to get video, and I know that's a term that we haven't had a lot of success with in my bureau, but more video in our lobbies to monitor what's being done when folks come in to make their complaints and their reports. We already have telephones recorded, and that's a big step as far as having a supervisor who's embedded, so to speak. So with that type of a complaint, there's not a lot we can do, but I can assure you when we are successful with identifying somebody that

has acted improperly, violating the rules and regulations, we do engage with the Office of the Chief Investigator to take the appropriate action. We go as far as we can with respect to trying to punish them through loss of pay, benefits, and to try to send the message to other employees that this type of conduct is not going to be tolerated.

We recently set up a similar situation with Secretary Goss where the complaints, some of which were not getting to the Board of Police Commissioners through the Office of the Chief Investigator in a timely manner, that they are being delivered to myself or Commander Bettison, that's my partner to the right, to ensure now that all complaints are getting to the proper authority and being answered in a timely manner. So aside from those things we're open not only to the Board, but to you and anyone else in this room, we're open to suggestions on what you would like to see us do better.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Thank you. Moving right along. Anymore communications?

PHYLLIS HERNANDEZ: Phyllis Hernandez, Casino Towing. As I've been here many times before, I would like to ask the same question again, if I could get an update on the status of the towing contracts or any information at all.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: It will be done very shortly. We are just in the completion stages of it now. As Commissioner

Griffin told you, as soon as it's available we'll have it out. My part is done. Most of it is done. We're just tweaking it a little bit, but it will be out soon. Like he said, within the next few weeks.

PHYLLIS HERNANDEZ: The reason I'm asking is because Chief Evans said 30 days, which was probably about six weeks ago, that he would give us an update and still nothing. I don't feel that I'm being unreasonable by asking this, since these contracts have been expired since 2005. We're going on five years. I don't feel like I'm being unreasonable. Can we even get an idea on which way the contracts are going to go?

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: It will be forth coming, and I promise you it will be here before the holiday season. Anyone else?

THOMAS STIDHAM: Good afternoon, Board. My name is Thomas Stidham, and I'm here on behalf of one of the police authorized towers, Michigan Auto Recovery Service with Mr. Regal standing here to my right. Last week I was not physically present at the meeting, but it was my understanding there was a man that made a complaint against Michigan Auto recovery service. I just want the Board to know that we are taking the matter very seriously. An investigation by my department has been launched. We are cooperating completely, and my understanding is that everything looks okay. We were told that

yesterday by a member of the department. However, I understand the investigation is still ongoing at this point. If the Board has any questions, we're happy to provide whatever information that the Board would like. I do want to just point out that the citizen suggested that he was treated rudely by Michigan Auto Recovery Service, and its employees, and our communication with him was terminated because he was being combative and hostile. So if the Board has any questions as far as--

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: For the record, this was the trailer that was at somebody's house and was towed and all the equipment was gone and the trailer was vandalized.

THOMAS STIDHAM: Allegedly, yes.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Internal Affairs is still doing an ongoing investigation, that's correct?

(An answer was provided in agreement with
the ongoing investigation.)

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: So we're not free to comment on that, right now. We have it noted that you've been here and we appreciate it.

THOMAS STIDHAM: Thank you, very much.

COMMISSIONER RIVERA: Anyone else? Going once, going twice. Meeting is adjourned.

(Meeting is adjourned at 3:35 p.m.)

Respectfully,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/rb